

Darton Urban District Council



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(GEORGE HARPER PEARCE, Esq.,  
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.F.P.S.),

1899.

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Barnsley :

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—  
1900.



***To the Darton Urban District  
Council.***

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GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my report up to the 31st December, 1899. As you are aware, my appointment only dating from September, I am unable to furnish you with an Annual Report regarding the sanitary state of the district.

During the four months ending the year 1899, there have been 95 births and 54 deaths in the Darton district. This gives us a birth rate of 40·5 per 1,000, and a death rate of 23·1 per 1,000. Comparing this with the birth and death rates of the larger towns of the West Riding, we have both a large birth and a large death rate, but the largeness of the latter is due in great part to the number of deaths amongst children of less than one year old.

The following diseases are accountable for the 54 deaths :—

Premature birth	....	....	7
Convulsions	....	....	4
Pneumonia ....	....	....	5
Meningitis ...	....	....	2
Erysipelas ....	....	....	1
Bronchitis ....	....	....	7
Diarrhœa ....	....	....	4
Phthisis ....	....	....	2
Rheumatic Fever	....	....	1
Senile Decay	....	....	3
Heart Disease	....	....	4
Renal Disease	....	....	3
Croup ....	....	....	3
Marasmus ....	....	....	2
Childbirth ....	....	....	2
Accident ....	....	....	1
Diphtheria ....	....	....	1
Enteric Fever	....	....	1
Scarlet Fever	....	....	1

Twenty-nine deaths took place in children under three years of age. Twenty-eight deaths are attributable to diseases of the chest and air passages.

Infectious Diseases caused four deaths, or, if Phthisis is included, six is the total number.

During the four months in question forty-seven cases of infectious disease have been notified to me as having occurred within the district. They may be tabulated as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	....	....	22
Erysipelas ....	....	....	4
Enteric Fever	....	....	8
Diphtheria ....	....	....	13

With a few exceptions, most of these cases have been of a mild type, and occurred in the following parts of the district :—

Darton	....	....	17
Mapplewell....	....	....	8
Barugh	....	....	18
Haigh	....	....	2
Kexbro'	....	....	2
Gawber	....	....	0
Higham	....	....	0

Gawber and Higham therefore stand first as the healthiest parts of the district, Kexbro' and Haigh second, Mapplewell third, Darton fourth, and Barugh last. Considering the population, the number of cases in Mapplewell is slight, but Barugh and Darton have a high rate. This is due to the fact that an

epidemic of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria occurred in the latter places at the end of October and beginning of November, and thus considerably increased the rate of disease.

Measles has lately broken out in the district, but as the Notification Act does not apply to Measles with us, I have no means of ascertaining the number of cases.

Influenza has also made its appearance but the type is not severe.

About two months ago there was great danger of Small Pox breaking out in the district and, on my advice, several people were re-vaccinated, although the opportunity might well have been taken greater advantage of, this, of course, even applying to the present time. However, although the disease got very close to us, not a single case occurred in the Council's district, and now there is a decrease in the number of cases in the West Riding and every probability of the disease being stamped out.

During my period of office I have made several inspections and, in conjunction with Mr. Taylor, the inspector, I have had several nuisances abated.

Mr. Gibson having furnished me with some of the papers of the late medical officer, I find that 65 deaths occurred from January 1st to August 31st, 1899. Eighteen of these deaths took place in Barugh, and the remainder in Darton Districts. During the same period 136 births occurred in the Sanitary district of Darton, and 57 in the district of Barugh, making a total of 193 for the eight months. I also find that 59 cases of infectious diseases were notified.

**G. H. PEARCE,**

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Edin.), L.F.P.S. (Glas.),

Medical Officer of Health of the Darton Urban District.

DARTON,

8th January, 1900.



